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United States Patent [19]**Machino et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,619,307**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 8, 1997**[54] **METHOD OF PRINTING TEST PATTERN
AND APPARATUS FOR OUTPUTTING TEST
PATTERN**[75] **Inventors:** **Hitoshi Machino**, Tokyo; **Koichi
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Japan[21] **Appl. No.:** **498,873**[22] **Filed:** **Jul. 6, 1995**[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**Jul. 7, 1994 [JP] Japan 6-155788
Mar. 29, 1995 [JP] Japan 7-071677[51] **Int. Cl.**⁶ **G03G 21/00**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **399/11; 399/72**[58] **Field of Search** 355/203-207,
355/202, 200[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Scinto[57] **ABSTRACT**

It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and method which allow a service engineer to accurately analyze the situation of a printer and specify a failure when he or she arrives at the place where the printer is installed. A computer predicts a failure from the status information of a printer, and transmits a test pattern corresponding to the failure to the printer via a controller. The computer then outputs an indication of print out. The service engineer can accurately analyze the failure because the test pattern has already been printed out upon occurrence of the failure.

16 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets